

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/910,271
Response dated Oct. 07, 2005
Office Action dated May 04, 2005
Docket No. BOC9-2000-0060 (195)

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action of May 04, 2005 (hereinafter Office Action). This response is filed after the 3-month shortened statutory period, and as such, a retroactive extension of time is hereby requested. The Examiner is authorized to charge the appropriate extension fee to Deposit Account 50-0951.

Claims 1-37 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0076025 to Liversidge, *et al.* (hereinafter Liversidge). Applicants were also advised by the Examiner to consider U.S. Patent No. 6,549,612 to Gifford, *et al.* (hereinafter Gifford) and U.S. Patent No. 6,563,914 to Sammon *et al.* (hereinafter Sammon) in formulating this response to the Office Action. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his thorough examination of the Application and expending time to work with Applicants to expedite its prosecution.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9, 18, 20, 28, and 27 to further emphasize certain aspects of Applicants' invention. The claim amendments are fully supported throughout the specification. (See, e.g., Specification, p. 8, lines 10-14; p. 8, line 25 – p. 9, line 1; p. 9, lines 5-21; p. 10, lines 10-22; p. 11, line 26 – p. 12, line 22; see also FIG. 3.) No new matter has been introduced by virtue of these claim amendments. Dependent Claims 6-8, 10-12, 17, 19, 25-27, and 29-31 are hereby cancelled. Dependent Claim 36 has been amended for consistency with the claim from which it depends.

I. Applicant's Invention

It may be useful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention. One embodiment of the invention, typified by independent Claim 1, as amended, is a method of communication. The method includes an initiating party inserting a voice conference identifier in an e-mail message to a recipient party at a recipient node, the voice conference identifier comprising a voice conference call list that specifies a data source of potential conference call nodes. The voice conference identifier used according to the

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method further includes an executable voice communications link program component, the executable voice communications link program component comprising a binary representation of a compiled object for establishing a voice communications link between the conference call nodes.

Additionally, the method includes transmitting the e-mail message to the recipient part at the recipient node, and causing the recipient node to display a plurality of selectable voice communications icons in response to detection of the voice conference identifier at the recipient node. Each selectable voice communications icon according to the method uniquely corresponds to a particular conference call node specified by the data source. The method further includes establishing a voice communications link between the recipient node and at least one conference call node using the executable voice communications link program component in response to a selection of at least one of the plurality of selectable voice communications icons.

II. The Claims Define Over The Prior Art

Applicants respectfully submit that Liversidge, Gifford, and Sammon, alone and in combination, fail to teach or suggest every feature of Applicants' invention. The references fail to teach or suggest establishing a conference call at different nodes using a voice conference identifier inserted by an initiating party into an e-mail to a recipient party at a recipient node, the voice conference identifier including an executable voice communications link program component that comprises a binary representation of a compiled object for establishing a voice communications link between the conference call nodes as recited in each of the independent claims as amended. The references, for example, also fail to teach or suggest transmitting the e-mail message to the recipient at the recipient node and causing the recipient node to display a plurality of selectable voice communications icons in response to detection of the voice conference identifier at the recipient node, wherein each of the plurality of selectable voice communications icons

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corresponds to a particular conference call node specified by the data source as also recited in each of the amended independent claims.

Applicants respectfully maintain that whereas Liversidge, Gifford and Sammon, individually and collectively, fail to teach or suggest each of the features recited in independent Claims 1, 9, 18, 20, 28, and 27, as amended, the claims define over the prior art. Applicants further respectfully maintain that whereas the other remaining claims each depend from one of the amended independent claims while reciting additional features, the remaining dependent claims likewise define over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner or Supervisor call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this response, or if the Examiner or Supervisor believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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